

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 5, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, and 26 as follows:

Claim 1. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies able to recognize and bind the antigenic epitope of at least one isoform of human clusterin in a selective and specific way, said epitope being immunogenic and characterised by a length from 10 to 20 amminoacids.

Claim 2. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 1, wherein said isoform is a glycosilated cytoplasmic or a non-glycosilated nuclear isoform.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) Oligoclonal antibodies according to ~~anyone of the claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein the antigenic epitope of the non-glycosilated nuclear isoform comprises one of the following amminoacidic sequences:

QFNWVSRLANLTQGEDQK (SEQ ID No 1); TKLKELPGVCNETMMALWEE (SEQ ID No 2) and derivatives thereof.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) Oligoclonal antibodies according to ~~anyone of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein the antigenic epitope of the glycosilated cytoplasmic isoform comprises one of the following amminoacidic sequences: TKLKELPGVCNETMMALWEE (SEQ ID No 2); TNEERKTLLSNLEELAK (SEQ ID No 3); METVAEKALQEYRKK (SEQ ID No 4) and derivatives thereof.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) Oligoclonal antibodies according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the antibodies are tagged.

Claim 6. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 5, wherein the antibodies are tagged with a fluorochrome, a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, biotin or a chemiluminescent substance.

Claim 7. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the fluorochrome is selected from the group consisting of fluorescein, ficoltrine, rodamine, texas red, coumarine.

Claim 8. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the radioactive isotope is ^{14}C or ^3H .

Claim 9. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the chemiluminescent substance is luciferin.

Claim 10. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of horseradish peroxidase (HRP) or alkaline phosphatase.

Claim 11. (Original) Immunogenic antigenic epitopes of at least one human clusterin isoform comprising at least one of the following amminoacidic sequences: QFNWVSRLANLTQGEDQK (SEQ ID No 1); TKLKELPGVCNETMMALWEE (SEQ ID No 2); TNEERKTLLSNLEEAK (SEQ ID No 3); METVAEKALQEYRKK (SEQ ID No 4) and derivatives thereof.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of the oligoclonal antibodies, as defined in ~~claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, which comprises the following steps:

- solid phase synthesis of at least one of the antigenic epitopes ~~as described in claim 11~~ of at least one human clusterin isoform comprising at least one of the following amminoacidic sequences: QFNWVSRLANLTQGEDQK (SEQ ID No 1); TKLKELPGVCNETMMALWEE (SEQ ID No 2); TNEERKTLLSNLEEAK (SEQ ID No 3); METVAEKALQEYRKK (SEQ ID No 4) and derivatives thereof;
- conjugation of at least one of the antigenic epitopes wherein a proteic carrier in order to make the epitope immunogenic;
- animal immunization with this immunogenic epitope in complete Freund adjuvant;
- serum withdrawal from this animal and purification of the oligoclonal antibodies.

Claim 13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the proteic carrier is the bovine serum albumin.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claims 12 and 13~~ claim 12, wherein the animal is rabbit.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) An immunological method for detection of the clusterin levels in biological samples which comprises the following steps:

- protein extraction from this biological sample;
- specific incubation of the proteic extract with at least one of the oligoclonal antibodies described in ~~claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, in order to obtain an antigen-antibody complex;
- qualitative and quantitative revelation of the antigen-antibody complex.

Claim 16. (Original) Immunological method according to claim 15 for tumours diagnosis and the prediction of their malignancy grade.

Claim 17. (Original) An immunological method according to claim 15, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, stool, seminal fluid, pleural fluid, ascitic fluid, urine, liquor.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) An immunological method according to ~~anyone of claims 15 and 17~~ claim 15, wherein the tumours are colorectal, breast, prostate, testis and ovary carcinomas, tumours of the Central Nervous System and of the haemo-lymphopoietic system.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) An immunological method according to ~~anyone of claims 15 to 18~~ claim 15, wherein the detection of step c) is done by using one of the following techniques: ELISA, Western Blot, RIA, immunohistochemistry.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) Diagnostic kit for tumours diagnosis and prediction of their malignancy grade which comprises at least one of the oligoclonal antibodies as defined in ~~claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.

Claim 21. (Original) Diagnostic kit according to claim 19, wherein the tumours are colorectal, breast, prostate, testis and ovary carcinomas, tumours of the Central Nervous System and of the haemo-lymphopoietic system.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) Use of at least one of the oligoclonal antibodies defined in ~~claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, for qualitative and quantitative determination of at least one human clusterin isoform levels in a biological sample.

Claim 23. (Original) Use according to claim 22 for tumour diagnosis and the prediction of its malignancy grade.

Claim 24. (Original) Use according to claim 22, wherein the qualitative and quantitative determination is carried out through one of the following techniques: ELISA, RIA, immunohistochemistry, Western Blot.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) Use according to ~~anyone of claims 22 and 24~~ claim 22, wherein the tumours are selected from the group consisting of colorectal, breast, prostate, testis and ovary carcinomas, tumours of the Central Nervous System and of the haemo-lymphopoietic system.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) Use according to ~~anyone of claims 22 to 25~~ claim 22, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, stool, seminal fluid, pleural fluid, ascitic fluid, urine, liquor.